

IN THE CLAIMS

The status of each claim is provided below:

Claims 1-8: Canceled.

9. (New): A method for producing nucleoside 5'-phosphate ester, comprising the steps of culturing a bacterium belonging to *Escherichia coli* having an ability to produce nucleoside 5'-phosphate ester, in which *ushA* gene and *aphA* gene do not function normally, in a medium to produce an accumulate nucleoside 5'-phosphate ester in a medium, and collecting the nucleoside 5'-phosphate ester from the medium, wherein the nucleoside 5'-phosphate ester is selected from the group consisting of 5'-inosinic acid and 5'-guanylic acid.

10. (New) The method according to claim 9, wherein mutations are introduced into the *ushA* gene and *aphA* gene or these genes are disrupted so that they do not function normally.